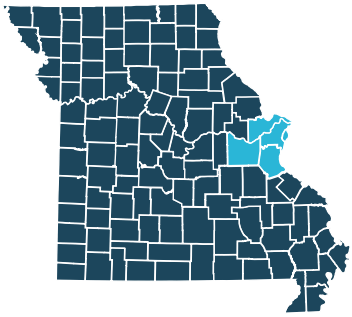


COMMUTING PROFILE
ST. LOUIS REGION
JULY 2026

Overview

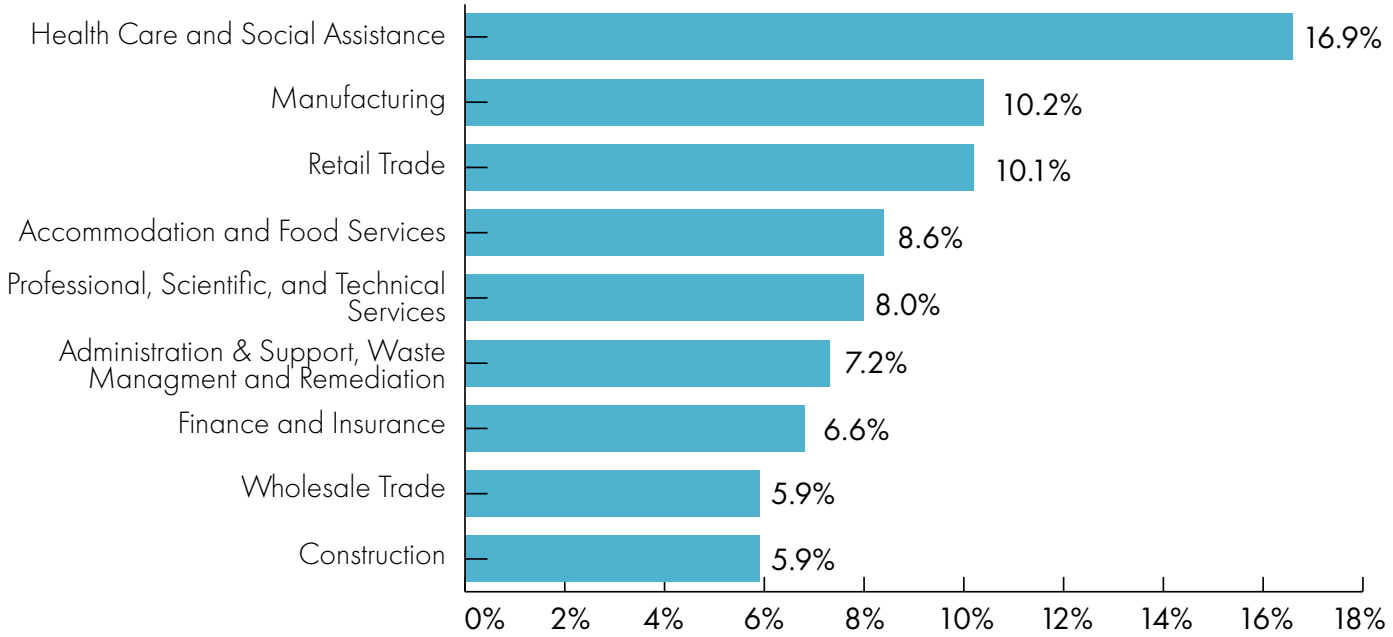
The St. Louis Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of four counties in the east central portion of Missouri: Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis County. The region also includes St. Louis City. In 2023, there were 960,814 total private primary jobs** in the St. Louis WDA, making up 41.8 percent of private primary jobs in Missouri. Most workers employed in the region (52.5%) were aged 30 to 54. Workers aged 29 or younger were 23.5 percent of the workforce and those 55 or older were 24 percent. In 2023, over 62.4 percent of private primary jobs in the St. Louis WDA paid more than $3,333 per month. Of the remaining jobs, 13.7 percent paid $1,250 per month or less and 23.9 percent paid between $1,251 and $3,333 per month. In 2023, there were more men (51.0%) than women (49.0%) in the St. Louis WDA workforce employed at the private primary jobs.

In 2023, 46.8 percent of employees living in the St. Louis WDA commuted fewer than 10 miles to work, 38.1 percent commuted 10 to 24 miles, 8.4 percent commuted 25 to 50 miles, and 6.7 percent commuted over 50 miles.

Industry

Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the region at 162,779 jobs (16.9% of total private primary jobs in the region). *Manufacturing; Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation;* and *Finance and Insurance* were other major industry sectors having at least over 6 percent of the region's employment share.

Top St. Louis WDA Industry - Private Primary Jobs Percentage



Where the St. Louis WDA Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 960,814 workers employed in the St. Louis WDA in 2023, 78.3 percent commuted to work from within the region. The remainder (21.7%) commuted into St. Louis WDA from homes outside of the region.

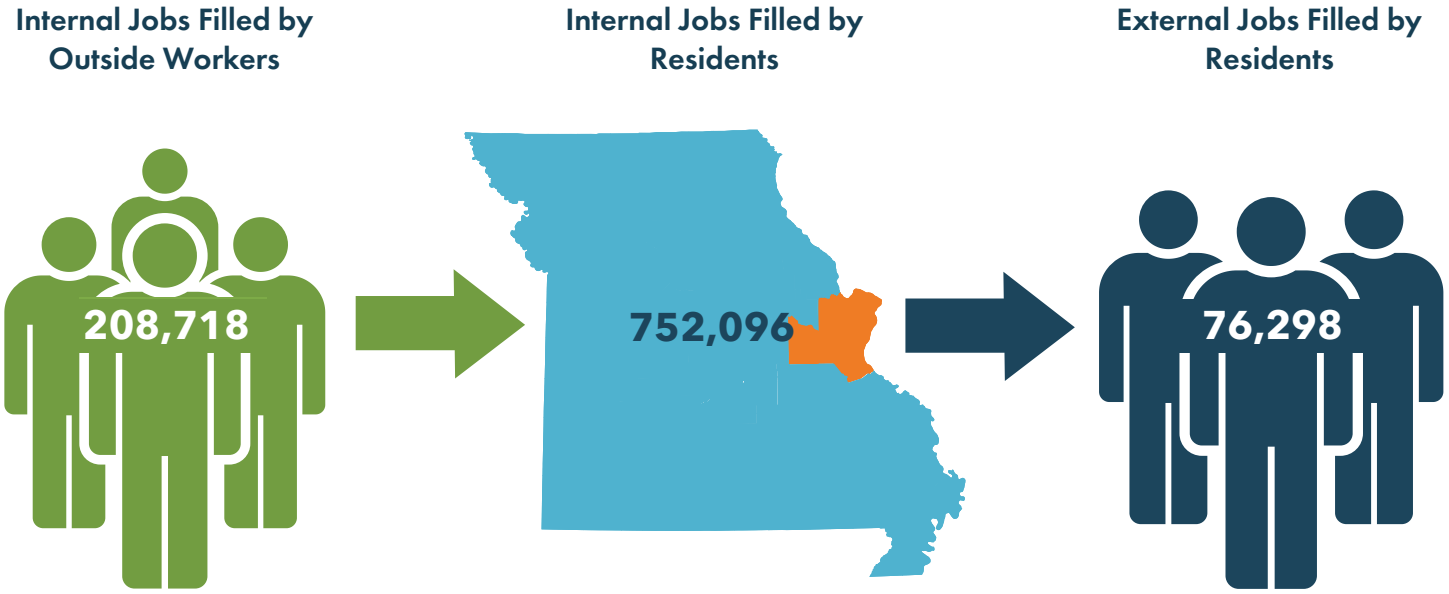
Description	2023	
	Count	Share
St. Louis WDA Labor Market Size (Private Primary Jobs)		
Employed in the St. Louis WDA	960,814	100.0%
Living in the St. Louis WDA	828,394	86.2%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	132,420	-
In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Private Primary Jobs)		
Living in the St. Louis WDA	828,394	100.0%
Living and Employed in the St. Louis WDA	752,096	90.8%
Living in the St. Louis WDA but Employed Outside	76,298	9.2%
In-Area Employment Efficiency (Private Primary Jobs)		
Employed in the St. Louis WDA	960,814	100.0%
Employed and Living in the St. Louis WDA	752,096	78.3%
Employed in the St. Louis WDA but Living Outside	208,718	21.7%

Of the region's residents who were in the workforce, 9.2 percent, or 76,298, commuted to jobs outside of the region. The St. Louis WDA attracted 208,718 workers from outside of the region. More than 752,000 St. Louis WDA residents lived and worked in the region.

The top five Missouri counties where St. Louis WDA workers resided (in descending order) were St. Louis County, St. Louis City, St. Charles County, Jefferson County, and Franklin County. St. Louis County and St. Louis City were home to almost 72 percent of the region's workforce in 2023.

Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 828,394 employees lived in the St. Louis WDA and 960,814 workers were employed in the region, resulting in a net inflow of 132,420 workers into the region.



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Of the 752,096 individuals who lived and worked in the region, 23.2 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 52.4 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 24.3 percent were aged 55 years or older. Approximately 65 percent worked in the *Services* industry.

St. Louis WDA Description	2023	
	Count	Share
Outflow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	76,298	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	20,760	27.2%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	37,948	49.7%
Workers Aged 55 or older	17,590	23.1%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	13,659	17.9%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	19,767	25.9%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	42,872	56.2%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	12,168	15.9%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	22,712	29.8%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	41,418	54.3%
Inflow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	208,718	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	51,225	24.5%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	110,139	52.8%
Workers Aged 55 or older	47,354	22.7%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	27,323	13.1%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	50,018	24.0%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	131,377	62.9%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	38,410	18.4%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	48,717	23.3%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	121,591	58.3%
Interior Flow Job Characteristics (Private Primary Jobs)		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	752,096	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	174,818	23.2%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	394,302	52.4%
Workers Aged 55 or older	182,976	24.3%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	104,327	13.9%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	179,429	23.9%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	468,340	62.3%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	118,249	15.7%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	145,096	19.3%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	488,751	65.0%

Commuter Pattern

The top five counties where St. Louis WDA workers living in the region are employed at their private primary jobs (in descending order) were St. Louis County, St. Louis City, St. Charles, Jefferson, and Franklin.

The table below indicates that many residents commuted to another county for employment. All but St. Louis County had at least half of their residents commuting outside their county of residence for work. The St. Louis Region's location in the state, in addition to Interstates 70, 40, 55, and U.S. Highway access, improves the ability of St. Louis WDA residents to commute to their workplace.

St. Louis WDA	
Percent of St. Louis WDA Residents Working Outside of Home County	
St. Charles	**66%**
St. Louis City	**62%**
St. Louis	**36%**
Franklin	**62%**
Jefferson	**81%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2023*), URL: https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/

**2023 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2023, although later data for some data points was available.*

LEHD data infrastructure tracks jobs as its primary unit instead of people. As such, the system naturally captures more than one job per person when available in the data. The **dominant (or primary) job for an individual is defined as the job that earned the individual the most money. Constructed this way, ***the number of primary jobs should be equal to the number of workers.***

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.